

EMSWORTH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

CONSTITUTION (UPDATED AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 18 FEBRUARY 2016)

1. Name

1.1 The name of the Society shall be the Emsworth Horticultural Society.

2. Aims and Objectives

2.1 The aims of the Society shall be to assist and encourage interest in horticulture of all kinds.

2.2 The objectives are -

- a. To provide a sales service of horticultural products
- b. To hold an annual show where the focus is on horticulture.
- c. To affiliate and, where necessary, appoint delegates to represent the Society on local and national bodies concerned with allotments, and leisure garden activities
- d. To hold meetings, talks and demonstrations
- e. To produce a regular newsletter.
- f. To maintain a regularly updated website.
- g. To arrange social activities for the benefit of the members.

3. Membership and Subscriptions

3.1 Membership of the Society shall run from 1 January to 31 December annually. The information on the computer record will not be divulged to any third party.

3.2 Membership of the Society shall be open to all allotment holders, gardeners and others interested in horticulture. Membership fees shall be agreed at the Annual General Meeting and Membership may be either individual or household. Payment of the current membership fee will entitle all members of the same household to the facilities of the Society but will only carry one proportional vote at Annual General Meetings and one share of the assets of the Society in the event of dissolution. The Management Committee have the powers to nominate Members for Honorary Life membership in reward for services given to the Society. This nomination to be ratified at the Annual General Meeting. The Management Committee also may nominate one or more life vice-Presidents. This nomination also is to be ratified at the Annual General Meeting. In the event of a dissolution of the Society, the assets of the Society, less all debts due, will be distributed to the current Members according to the number of years of continuous membership prior to the dissolution of the Society up to a maximum of 7 years. This rule also applies to Honorary Life Members.

3.3 The Management Committee may terminate the membership of anyone who, in their opinion, is acting to the detriment of the interest of the Society.

4. Management Committee

4.1 The honorary officers of the Society shall be - The President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Society Secretary, Treasurer, Show Secretary, the Chairman of the Show Sub Committee and the Chairman of the Distribution Sub Committee. In addition, there will be up to 9 other Members who, with the officers, will form the Management Committee.

4.2 The President will be nominated by the Management Committee for ratification at the Annual General Meeting.

4.3 All members of the Management Committee, other than the President, shall retire at the Annual General Meeting but shall be eligible for re-election. Officers of the Society may serve in one post for a maximum of three years. Any exception to this rule must be confirmed by members at the AGM.

4.4 Members of the Management Committee are expected to attend the Annual General Meeting and at least 50% of Committee Meetings.

4.5 The Management Committee shall have power to co-opt Members for specific purposes, such Members shall not have the power to vote.

4.6 Delegates to represent the Society on outside bodies shall be appointed by the Management Committee.

4.7 Management Committee meetings will be held monthly or as necessary at the discretion of the Chairman and Society Secretary.

4.8 A quorum shall consist of a minimum of 7. If the number of members of the Management Committee exceeds 14, the quorum shall be 50% of that number.

4.9 The Chairman, Society Secretary and Treasurer shall be empowered to deal with any matter of urgency between Management Committee meetings.

4.10 The Society Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings. Any matters not specifically provided for in the Constitution shall be dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee and reported to the next Annual General Meeting.

5. Finance

5.1 A bank account/accounts in the name of the Society shall be maintained and all moneys received from any source shall be paid into it/them. Cheques drawn in the name of the Society shall be signed by any two of four signatories appointed by the Management Committee. One of these four will be the Treasurer and one will be the Treasurer of the Show Sub Committee. The other two signatories will be members of the Management Committee. The Treasurer shall keep proper accounts of all transactions, closing the books on 31 December each year for scrutiny by a suitable person. The accounts shall be presented to the Annual General Meeting for adoption. Any discrepancies in the moneys received or paid in trading are to be the responsibility of the Society and not the individual. Any capital expenditure on behalf of the Society exceeding £100 has to be approved by the Management Committee. A budget for Show events will be set by the Show Committee with the agreement of the Society Treasurer.

6. Distribution Store

6.1 The distribution store will open on Sunday mornings subject to the discretion of the Management Committee and availability of helpers.

7. Annual General Meeting

7.1 Alterations, amendments or additions to this Constitution shall only be made at the Annual General Meeting after prior notice or at a special General Meeting called for that purpose. A special General meeting may be called by the Management Committee or at the written request of at least 20 other voting Members, stating clearly the purpose of the meeting. In each case, the Secretary shall give at least 14 days' notice to Members by means of displaying a notice at the distribution store in Washington Road allotment site, Emsworth. At such special General Meetings, only the stipulated business shall be dealt with.